



## **INOTROPES**

### **■ WHAT ARE INOTROPES?**

The word "inotrope" refers to the strength of the heart muscles' pumping action, or contractions. This term usually describes the strength and force of the heartbeat. Inotrope medications can make the heart beat more strongly and help slow and control the heart rate. The generic drug most commonly used is digoxin (Lanoxin).

### **■ WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR?**

Inotropes are used to improve symptoms of heart failure and related conditions, such as low ejection fraction (EF). They are also used to slow the heart rate in response to atrial fibrillation (fast rhythm in the heart's upper chambers).